

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for collaboratively executing an application, comprising:

establishing a communication from a first computing object to an intermediary system wherein the intermediary multicasts messages among the first computer and a plurality of other computing objects in communication with the intermediary wherein the first computing object and the plurality of other computing objects can communicate text messages;

transmitting a message by way of the established communication indicative of an invitation to collaboratively execute an application from the first computing object to the intermediary system whereby the message is multicast to the other ones of the plurality of computing objects and wherein each of the other ones of the plurality of computing objects launches a first application;

receiving a message indicative of acceptance at the first computing object from at least ~~one~~ a subset of the other ones of the plurality of computing objects;

receiving a network address of the at least ~~one~~ a subset of the other ones of the plurality of computing objects that sent a message indicative of acceptance whereby the first computing object transmits actions related to the first application to the at least ~~one~~ a subset of the other ones of the plurality of computing objects to communicate actions performed on the application locally bypassing the intermediary and wherein the communication session is maintained for multicasting text messages among the first computing object and the plurality of other computing objects;

launching the first application locally, wherein the act of launching the first application comprises both transmitting a parameter indicative of an identifier of a process of the first application and receiving a pointer to an application session of which the first application is associated.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the message indicative of an invitation comprises the term “invite”.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first computing object is executing on a first computer and wherein the other ones of the computing objects is executing on at least one other computer.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising registering a first copy of the application with the first computing object.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a first copy of the application and the first object are executable on a first computer.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5 further comprising transmitting a message from the first computer indicative of connection-specific information to the at least on other ones of the plurality of computing objects.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the connection-specific information comprises an internet protocol address.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising launching a second application on a second computer.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the second application and the first application comprise compatible functions.

10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 9 wherein the second application is the same application as the first application.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising transmitting a second message to another computing object that joined the communication with the intermediary, the second message indicative of an invitation to collaboratively execute the application.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the another computing object joined the communication with the intermediary after the first message was transmitted.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the transmission of the second message is by one of the plurality of computing objects.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer readable instructions for carrying out the acts recited in claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer readable instructions for carrying out the acts recited in claim 11.

18. (Currently amended) A protocol for collaborative application execution, comprising:

a first message indicative of an invitation to join a multiparty application, said first message comprising a first portion indicative of the invitation and a second portion indicative of a communications session number in a messaging system maintained by a service wherein the first message is processed by a computing device as a request to join a multiparty application session; and

a second message comprising a network address of at least one other computing device simultaneously executing the multiparty application to which actions are transmitted related to the multiparty application to the at least one other computing device independent of the messaging system while the communication session in the messaging service is maintained for text communication.

19. (Original) The protocol as recited in claim 18 wherein the first portion comprises the term "invite".

20. (Original) The protocol as recited in claim 18 wherein the text portion comprises the term "nway".

21. (Currently amended) A system for collaborative application execution, comprising:

a first computer comprising intermediary computer readable instructions for multicasting messages among a plurality of computing objects;

at least one of the plurality of computing object in communication with the intermediary computer-readable instructions and comprising a plurality of computer-readable instructions for real-time communication with other computing objects by way of the intermediary computer-readable instructions; and

at least one of the plurality of computing objects comprising computer readable instructions for inviting computing objects by way of real-time communication to collaboratively execute a computer application by way of the intermediary computer-readable instructions

at least one of the plurality of computing readable instructions for communicating directly with a network address of at least one other computing device simultaneously executing the collaborative application to which actions are transmitted related to the collaborative application bypassing the first computer and wherein the real-time communications not related to actions in on the collaborative application continue to use the computer-readable instructions for real-time communication with other computing objects by way of the intermediary computer-readable instructions.

22. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the first computer comprises a roster of users that have communicated their presence through a computing object to the intermediary instructions.

23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21 wherein the first computer maintains a session indicative of users that have joined in a real-time communication.

24. (Original) The system as recited in claim 22 further comprising an application session that maintains a roster of users that are collaboratively executing an application.

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 24 where each user causes a copy of the application to be executed on a separate computer from each other user.

**DOCKET NO.:** MSFT-2827/305859.01  
**Application No.:** 10/691,922  
**Office Action Dated:** October 23, 2003

**PATENT  
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO  
37 CFR § 1.116**

26. (Original) An instant messaging service comprising the intermediary computer-readable instructions as recited in claim 21.